Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

With reference to FIGS. 2-5, prior to assembly of face place 22 to shell 20, the rear contours of face plate 20 are formed by a machining operation shown schematically in FIG. 5. The process begins with a blank face plate 32, which in the illustrative embodiment comprises a blank stamped from a rolled sheet of titanium alloy. The blank face plate 32 has a thickness equal to the final thickness of the central thickened region 24 of the finished face plate 22, which as noted hereinbefore is from 0.130 to 0.180 inches in thickness. The rear surface of blank face plate 32 is machined by using a cutting tool 34 to remove a portion thereof. The tip of cutting tool 34 has a lateral cutting surface 36 and a lower cutting surface 38. Lower cutting surface 38 is perpendicular to the axis 40 of cutting tool 34. Lateral cutting surface 36 is angled upward with respect to lower cutting surface 38 by an angle 42 of from about 5 to 20 degrees, but preferably about 13 degrees such that lateral cutting surface 36 defines a generally inverted conical frustum surface of revolution [[44]] as cutting tool 34 is rotated about its axis 40. Lateral cutting surface 36 may have straight edges as shown in FIG. 5, or may have edges 36b that are concave downward as in the cutting tool 34b shown in FIG. 6, or may have edges 36c that are convex downward as in the cutting tool 34c shown in [[FIG. 7.]] FIG. 7 yielding a conical frustum surface of revolution (and corresponding transition regions) having correspondingly curved sides.